

Appl. No. : 09/810,872
Filed : March 16, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising the steps of:

reacting the aldehyde in the test sample with an amount of a compound that reacts with a carbonyl group of the aldehyde in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest to produce a first color;

reacting a compound having an amino group with any remaining aldehyde in the test sample in a second reacting step, the compound being one that reacts with the aldehyde to produce a second color; and

determining the presence of an excess of aldehyde in the test sample to the point of interest by observation of a final color of the test sample,

wherein the compound having an amino group and the compound that reacts with the carbonyl group of the aldehyde are contacted with the test sample in a container at the same time.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound having an amino group is an amino acid.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the amino acid is glycine.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the amino acid is lysine.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound that reacts with the carbonyl group of the aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of a salt of bisulfite, a salt of cyanide, hydrazine, and hydroxylamine.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the aldehyde comprises a germicide.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the germicide is selected from the group consisting of OPA, glutaraldehyde, and formaldehyde.

8. / (Previously cancelled)

9. / (Previously cancelled)

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first color is colorless.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein less than 1% of the aldehyde remains after the first reacting step when the amount of aldehyde in the test sample is less than the point of interest.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising drawing up a fixed volume of an aldehyde-containing test sample before or during the first reacting step.

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13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising loading the fixed volume to a measuring device having a gas or vapor permeable but liquid impermeable membrane.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising loading the fixed volume to a measuring device containing said compound for the first reacting step ~~or-and~~ said compound for the second reacting step.

15. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) A liquid measuring device comprising at least one compartment for determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising:

a first compartment having a proximal and distal end which contains an amount of a first compound that reacts with a carbonyl group of the aldehyde in a first reacting step; and

a first valve at or near the distal end of the first compartment, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest to produce a first color.

16. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15, wherein said first compartment further comprises a compound having an amino group that reacts with the aldehyde to produce a second color.

17. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15 further comprising a second compartment in liquid communication with said first compartment by means of a second valve.

18. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 17, wherein said second valve is a one-way valve.

19. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 17, wherein said second valve is an on/off valve.

20. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 17, wherein said second compartment contains a compound having an amino group that reacts with the aldehyde to produce a second color.

21. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15 which is a syringe or pipet.

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22. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15 further comprising a gas or vapor permeable but liquid impermeable membrane between the proximal and distal end of the first compartment.

23. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15 further comprising a filter at or near the distal end of the first compartment.

24. (cancelled)

25. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15, wherein said first valve is a one-way valve.

26. (Previously Amended/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15, wherein said first valve is an on/off valve.

27. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15 further comprising a needle assembly.

28. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 27, wherein the needle assembly comprises a needle cap.

29. (original/ Withdrawn from consideration) The liquid measuring device of claim 15, wherein the aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of OPA, glutaraldehyde, and formaldehyde.

30. (Currently amended) A method of determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising the steps of:

reacting the aldehyde in the test sample with an amount of a salt of bisulfite compound that reacts with a carbonyl group of the aldehyde in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest to produce a first color;

reacting a compound having an amino group with any remaining aldehyde in the test sample in a second reacting step, the compound being one that reacts with the aldehyde to produce a second color; and

determining the presence of an excess of aldehyde in the a test sample solution to the point of interest by observation of a final color of the test sample solution, wherein the compound having an amino group and the compound that reacts with the carbonyl group of the aldehyde are contacted with the aldehyde at the same time.

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31. (Previously added/ Withdrawn from consideration) A liquid measuring device comprising at least one compartment for determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising:

a first compartment having a proximal and distal end which contains an amount of a first compound that reacts with a carbonyl group of the aldehyde in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest to produce a first color; and

a gas or vapor permeable but liquid impermeable membrane between the proximal and distal end of the first compartment.

32. (Currently amended) A method of determining the presence of a point of interest of OPA in a test sample comprising the steps of:

reacting the OPA in the test sample with an amount of a ~~compound that reacts with the OPA salt of bisulfite~~ in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the OPA to the point of interest to produce a first color;

reacting a compound having an amino group with any remaining OPA in the test sample in a second reacting step, the compound being one that reacts with the OPA to produce a second color; and

determining the presence of an excess of OPA in the test sample to the point of interest by observation of a final color of the test sample,

wherein the compound having an amino group and the salt of bisulfite are contacted with the test sample at the same time.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the first reacting step is kinetically and thermodynamically favored over the second reacting step.